

# Increased bicycle use on center prompts safety concerns

## Efforts are now underway to encourage registration

Budget cutbacks have contributed to new life for an old form of transportation at Kennedy Space Center -- the bicycle. As departments have been forced to give up official cars, increasing numbers of employees are turning to bicycles for treks across center.

The responsibility of managing and maintaining the two-wheeled vehicles for NASA and the Base Operations Contractor falls to EG&G employee Colleen Prince-Osborne. Lockheed Martin Space Operations Company, USBI and McDonnell Douglas Space and Defense Systems also provide bicycle maintenance services for their employees.

Prince-Osborne said bicycles have been used at KSC since the center first opened.

"When the center started we didn't have many company cars," she said.

The use of bicycles escalated in the 1970s during the energy crisis and continued as people became more health conscious in the 1980s.

Now there are hundreds of bicycles on center and Prince-Osborne is beginning ef-



BICYCLES provide a convenient way for Brook Smith of Lockheed Martin Space Operations to get around the center. He is shown with John Blue, also of Lockheed Martin, and Blue's son, Matthew, who was visiting for Take Our Sons to Work Day last summer.

forts to register and tag them all to ensure that they are fully equipped for safety.

One of the principal concerns during the dark winter hours is ensuring that the bikes

are properly illuminated.

Florida state law requires that bicycles be equipped with red back reflectors, a white front light which can be seen from 500 feet and a red back light which can be seen from 600 feet.

The KSC Protective Services Office has received several reports from motor vehicle drivers of close calls resulting from not seeing bicyclists.

People using bicycles owned by NASA or EG&G can obtain service for the vehicles, including installation of proper reflective gear, through the bicycle maintenance contract managed by Prince-Osborne.

Anyone who acquires a bicycle for use on center should contact Prince-Osborne so the vehicle can be inspected and registered.

Occasionally there are bicycles available that have been excessed so it's also recommended that people check with the NASA/BOC maintenance office before purchasing a bike.

Prince-Osborne said she would ultimately like to see a loan pool set up so bikes can be shared.

For more information on bicycles on center or to make an appointment for registration or maintenance, contact Prince-Osborne at 867-3939.

## Facts, figures and laws for bicyclists in Florida

\* In Florida the bicycle is legally defined as a vehicle. Bicyclists have the same rights to the roadways and must obey the same traffic laws as the operators of other vehicles. These laws include: stopping for stop signs and red lights; riding with the flow of traffic; using lights at night; and yielding the right-of-way when entering a roadway.

\* A bicyclist riding on sidewalks or crosswalks must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and must give an audible signal before passing.

\* A bicycle operated between sunset and sunrise must be equipped with a lamp on the front exhibiting a white light visible from 500 feet to the front and both a

red reflector and lamp on the rear exhibiting a red light visible from 600 feet to the rear.

\* A bicyclist who is not traveling at the same speed of other traffic must ride as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway.

\* A bicyclist operating on a one-way street with two or more traffic lanes may ride as close to the left-hand edge of the roadway as practicable.

\* Non-moving violations, such as failure to use required lighting equipment when riding at night and failure to have working brakes can result in a fine of \$30. Moving violations such as running a stop sign or riding against traffic can lead to a fine of \$50.

\* Nearly 60 percent of all adult fatal bicycle accidents in

Florida occur during twilight and night hours although less than 3 percent of bicycle use takes place during that time. Roadways with motor vehicle speeds above 40 miles per hour pose extreme risk at night. And red reflectors on the rear of a bicycle can easily be mistaken for reflectors on roadside mail boxes so those who must ride at night are encouraged to use additional lighting or reflectors.

\* Nearly 75 percent of all bicycle-related deaths result from head injuries. Bicyclists are strongly advised to wear helmets.

\* Bicyclists are also strongly advised to wear a pennant-shaped flag or vest made of "dayglow" orange material.

## Program planned for federal women

The Federally Employed Women's 17th annual training program will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 24, and Thursday, Jan. 25, at the Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel in Cocoa Beach. The theme is titled "Creating New Horizons," and the program will be held on both days with exhibits from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Discovery Ballroom.

Registration will be held from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. in the lobby of the hotel.

The opening session will begin with a welcome by the group's president and seminar chair, followed by a keynote speaker. The morning session will be held from 9:15 a.m. until 11:15 a.m., with selection of first and second choices. There will be one afternoon session held from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Fee for the two-day event is \$59. For more information, contact Delores Green at 867-2005.